

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A precision positioning unit comprising a table on which an article is to be placed, a linearly movable rod which is connected with the table at one end or a vicinity thereof and further connected with a rod actuating device at another end or a vicinity thereof, said rod actuating device capable of linearly moving the rod forward and backward, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising:

the rod is connected with the rod actuating device via cushion mechanism; and

by the side of the rod is placed a rod movement control device comprising an elastic member, ~~[[a]]~~ an ultrasonic transducer, and ~~[[a]]~~ an ultrasonic emitting surface, the elastic member being constituted to push the ultrasonic emitting surface to a side surface of the rod when the ultrasonic transducer is inactive, and the ultrasonic transducer functioning to draw the ultrasonic emitting surface away from the rod when it is active.

2. (Original) The precision positioning unit of claim 1, wherein a pair of the rod movement control device are placed symmetrically around an axis of the rod.

3. (Original) The precision positioning unit of claim 1, wherein the ultrasonic transducer is placed and connected between two solid members using a bolt.

4. (Original) The precision positioning unit of claim 1, wherein the ultrasonic emitting surface is composed of a friction pad.

5. (Original) The precision positioning unit of claim 4, wherein the friction pad comprises carbon fiber reinforced plastic material.

6. (Original) The precision positioning unit of claim 1, wherein the ultrasonic emitting surface protrudes in a center thereof.
7. (Currently Amended) The precision positioning unit of claim 1, wherein the elastic member ~~is composed of spring~~ comprises springs.
8. (Original) The precision positioning unit of claim 1, wherein the rod actuating device comprises a stepping motor and a ball screw and the cushion mechanism comprises a spring.
9. (Original) The precision positioning unit of claim 1, wherein the rod actuating device is a voice coil motor and the cushion mechanism is included in the voice coil motor.
10. (Original) The precision positioning unit of claim 1, wherein the table is placed on a substrate in such manner that the table can slide linearly.
11. (Currently Amended) A linear movement control unit comprising a linearly movable rod which is connected with a rod actuating device at one end or a vicinity thereof, said rod actuating device capable of linearly moving the rod forward and backward, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising:
  - the rod is connected with the rod actuating device via cushion mechanism; and
  - by the side of the rod is placed a rod movement control device comprising an elastic member, [[a]] an ultrasonic transducer, and [[a]] an ultrasonic emitting surface, the elastic member being constituted to push the ultrasonic emitting surface to a side surface of the rod when the ultrasonic transducer is inactive, and the ultrasonic transducer being placed and connected between two solid members using a bolt and functioning to draw the ultrasonic emitting surface away from the rod when it is active.
12. (Original) The linear movement control unit of claim 11, wherein a pair of the rod movement control device are placed symmetrically around an axis of the rod.

13. (Cancelled)
14. (Original) The linear movement control unit of claim 11, wherein the ultrasonic emitting surface is composed of a friction pad.
15. (Original) The linear movement control unit of claim 14, wherein the friction pad comprises carbon fiber reinforced plastic material.
16. (Currently Amended) The linear movement control unit of claim 11, wherein the elastic member ~~is composed of spring~~ comprises springs.
17. (Original) The linear movement control unit of claim 11, wherein the rod actuating device comprises a stepping motor and a ball screw and the cushion mechanism comprising a spring.
18. (Original) The linear movement control unit of claim 11, wherein the rod actuating device is a voice coil motor and the cushion mechanism is included in the voice coil motor.
19. (Original) The linear movement control unit of claim 11, wherein the ultrasonic emitting surface protrudes in a center thereof.